



208PAT1-DE

- 1) GOLDMANN Gerd Dr.: Das Druckerbuch, Oce Printing Systems GmbH, Edition 4c, October 1999, ISBN:3-00-001019-X, p. 12-1 to 12-17
- 2) DE 19922118 A1
- 3) DE 10000589 A1

## I.

The print control method of the present main claim was apparent to the person skilled in the art in obvious manner from the prior art before the priority date of the present patent application.

For publication 1 discloses a print control method for transmitting print data from a client to a print server (Figure 2) managing a printer so as to be printed by the printer in a network environment (Figure 2 and pages 12-7 „The Basic Printer Server – Fundamental Functions for all Cases“) including the following steps:

- using a communication protocol between the client and the print server (Fig. 6 and page 12-10).

The further steps are apparent from publication 2 which also deals with printing via a network:

- using an HTTP communication protocol (page 2, lines 38-40 and p. 3, lines 59 et seq.);
- adding in the client a header including information on the printer to be used to the print data so as to

transmit the print data (page 2, lines 49-65 and p.3. lines 23-67);

- receiving in the print server the print data and transmitting the print data to the printer according to the header of the print data (page 4, lines 20-39);
- and
- printing the print data in the printer (p.4, lines 20-27).

In the light of the two publications the person skilled in the art thus arrives at the subject of claim 1 without further inventive effort.

Consequently, claim 1 is not allowable because of lack of inventive level.

The steps of the print control method according to claim 2 were also apparent from the passages in publications 1 and 2 cited above before the priority date. This claim is therefore also not allowable because of lack of inventive level.

A print server according to claim 7 was apparent from the prior art before the priority date. Thus, publication 2 discloses a print server for managing a printer in a network environment (page 4, lines 20-39). Which includes

- HTTP receiving means for receiving print data using the HTTP as communication protocol (page 2, lines 38 and 40); and
- A print data transmitting means for transmitting the print data to a printer as output target in accordance with an HTTP header of the print data (page 2, lines 49-60).

The independent claim 7 is therefore not allowable at least because of lack of inventive level.

A client according to claim 9 was also made obvious by the prior art before the priority data. Publication 1 discloses a client comprising printer registering means for registering and managing printer information acquired from a print server managing a printer, said printer information including an address of the printer, a type of the printer and a communication protocol (Fig. 11 and page 12-9 "The print job manager..."), including

- a display means for displaying the printer information on a screen (Figure 5 and Figure 7);
- a selecting means for selecting the printer to be used from the printer registering means (Fig. 11 "Printer 1...n"); and
- an HTTP transmitting means for adding a header including information on the address of the printer which has been selected by the selecting means to print data and for transmitting the print data to the print server (page 12-10 "Printing via web").

The use of an HTTP protocol is apparent from publication 2 (page 2, lines 38-40 and page 3, lines 59 et seq.). Thus, in the light of the two publications the person skilled in the art arrives at the subject of claim 9 without any inventive effort.

The independent claim 9 is therefore not allowable because of lack of inventive level.

The subject of the independent claim 10, which is directed to a recording medium, was apparent in obvious manner from

the prior art to the person skilled in the art before the priority date of the present application. A recording medium is already known to the person skilled in the art in manifold forms (CD, floppy disk, hard disk, etc.). Moreover, the steps to be carried out by the program stored on the data carrier are already apparent from the passages cited with regard to claim 1. The present independent claim 10 is therefore not allowable because of lack of inventive level.

Finally, a print control system according to claim 11 was also made obvious by the prior art before the priority date. The means of the system are apparent from the citation passages cited above. Here as well, in the light of the two publications the person skilled in the art arrives at the subject of claim 11 without inventive effort.

The independent claim 11 is therefore not allowable because of lack of inventive effort.

## II

Nor can any patentable particulars be seen in the subsidiary claims either.

With regard to claim 3 compare publication 2 (especially page 2, lines 49-60 and page 4, lines 20-39).

The features of claims 4 and 6 are apparent in publication 3 (especially column 5, lines 29-49) which deals with the acknowledgement of peripheral device data.

With regard to claim 5 compare publication 1 (Figure 5 and page 12-9 „The print job manager...“).

With regard to claim 8 compare publication 3 (especially column 5, lines 29-49) in conjunction with publication 1 (Figure 5 and page 12-9 „The print job manager...”).

Summarising, no foundation for an allowable statement of claim can be seen at the moment in the present patent application.

### III

If the application is not to be further prosecuted brief written notification (withdrawal declaration) is requested or at least acknowledgement of the receipt of this Official Action.

Otherwise, Applicants are requested

- a) to file a new clarified statement of claim which is limited with respect to the nearest prior art and the main claim of which contains a clear and complete solution with the technical means and steps,
- b) to define a precise clearly and positively worded problem,
- c) if necessary to prove that any newly incorporated features were disclosed as essential to the invention in the original documents, and
- d) to explain the advantages of the newly claimed subject and to substantiate in detail the inventive step over the proved state of the art and the expert knowledge of the average person skilled in the art, and
- e) to acknowledge the prior art (according to the citations) in the description.

If on the other hand the application is maintained with an unchanged statement of claim or one of substantially the same content or without eliminating the obscurities referred to above, rejection thereof will have to be expected after expiry of the term.

Examiner for Class G06F